

AB 287 (Beall) – FACT SHEET

Employment First Policy

BACKGROUND

In 2006, pursuant to SB 1270 (Chesbro), meetings were held to receive public input on ways to expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in the areas of employment and community participation. A resulting May 2007 Report to the Legislature and the Governor included recommendations for improvements to the transition services planning process for students and to the Lanterman Act Individual Program Plan (IPP) process. It also recommended policies and initiatives to expand employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

In the summer and fall of 2007, the Assembly Human Services Committee held a series of Roundtables and Informational Hearings on "Taking the Lanterman Act into the Future." Input was received on ways to expand choices and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families and to improve the IPP process.

THIS BILL

AB 287 will establish an Employment First Policy intended to result in a significant increase in the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who engage in integrated and gainful employment. The Policy establishes a high priority on providing supported employment and other integrated employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and states that integrated employment is the primary service option for working-age adults.

The bill's findings and declarations recognize that working age people with disabilities are among the most unemployed and underemployed members of society and that people with developmental disabilities are an important and largely untapped employment resource. The bill also recognizes the importance of adequate and early transition planning so that students with developmental disabilities are able to move directly from school to work. The importance of collaboration and cooperation by many state and local agencies is also emphasized.

Under AB 287, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities will form a standing Employment First

Committee, including designated Council representatives: The Departments of Developmental Services and Rehabilitation, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the state's protection and advocacy agency, and the University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It will also include a member of the Council's consumer advisory committee. The Committee must meet and consult with other agencies and organizations, including the Employment Development Department, the Association of Regional Center Agencies, supported employment provider organizations and consumer family member organizations.

The Employment First Committee will:

- Identify respective roles and responsibilities of state and local agencies in enhancing integrated and gainful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
- Identify strategies, best practices, and incentives, including ways to improve the transition planning process, and increase employer participation.
- Recommend goals for and approaches to measuring progress in increasing integrated and gainful employment of people with developmental disabilities.
- Recommend legislative, regulatory, and policy changes.

The Committee will report on its activities and recommendations annually to the Legislature and the Governor.

SPONSORS

Association of Regional Center Agencies
Disability Rights California
State Council on Developmental Disabilities

STATUS

Amended April 13, 2009

Staff Contact: Eric Gelber (916) 319-2089